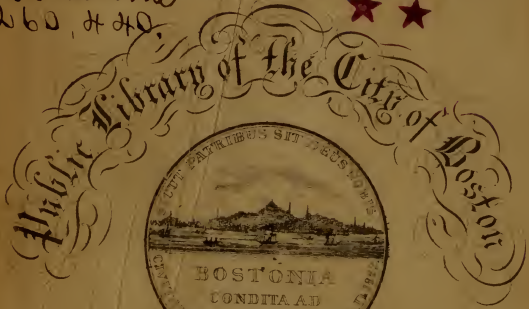




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NELSONS' GUIDE

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ENVIRONS OF LONDON.



MAP OF THE ENVIRONS OF LONDON.

LONDON:

T. NELSON AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW;
EDINBURGH; AND NEW YORK.

MDCCLVIII.

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ENVIRONS OF LONDON.

THERE are, in the vicinity of the metropolis of Great Britain, a number of interesting objects, public buildings, and sights, which every stranger ought to make a point of seeing after he has visited the lions of the city.

In this work will be found engravings and descriptions of the more important of these sights. The objects of minor interest, although not enlarged upon, are briefly referred to; so that the book, it is hoped, will be found a useful and complete, though necessarily concise, Guide to the Environs of London.

As most of the places of interest in the neighbourhood of London lie on or near to the banks of the River Thames, we will, in our arrangement of subjects, follow the downward course of that river, beginning with

WINDSOR CASTLE.

This celebrated palace of the Sovereign is 20 miles from London, and may be reached by two railways—viz., by the *Great Western* from Paddington Station, or

by the *South-Western* from Waterloo Station. Gratuitous admission is afforded to the state apartments on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays; but tickets must be procured from the Lord Chamberlain. They are to be had from the following:—Messrs. Ackermann & Co., Printsellers, 96 Strand; Mr. Wright, Bookseller, 60 Pall-Mall; Mr. Mitchell, Bookseller, 33 Old Bond Street; Messrs. Paul & Dominic Colnaghi, Printsellers, 14 Pall-Mall East, and at the office, Windsor Castle. Procure a penny guide-book, which will serve to fill in the details of this outline.

The fabled origin of this favourite residence of royalty is assigned to King Arthur; and here, it is said, the Knights of the Round Table were wont to assemble. Authentic history says that it was first annexed to the crown in the reign of William I., who erected a Castle on the hill as a convenient hunting-box. This Castle was afterwards enlarged and improved by the second and third Henrys. Between the years 1359 and 1374 important additions were made by Edward III., who was born in the Castle, and took special delight in it. The Order of the Garter was instituted in 1349 by this monarch, who afterwards re-founded the College, or Free Chapel of St. George. During the reign of Richard II. Geoffrey Chaucer, the "Father of English Poetry," was appointed to the office of Clerk of the Works of St. George's Chapel, with a salary of 2s. a-day! Henry VIII. was so partial to Windsor that he selected it as his place of sepulture; he

did little towards its improvement, however. During the reigns of Edward VI. and Queen Mary the expensive and laborious work of conducting water to the Castle from Blackmore Park, a distance of five miles, was accomplished. Queen Elizabeth built the magnificent terrace, which is one of the most striking features of the Castle. Oliver Cromwell resided here occasionally, and, although he did nothing for the architectural beauty of the place, he added considerably to the value of the landed estates and College endowments, by his good management. Many important additions and repairs were made to Windsor Castle by London's great architect, Sir Christopher Wren, during the reign of Charles II.; but from that time little or nothing was done to it till the accession of George IV., who made the Castle his favourite residence.

In April 1824 the House of Commons voted a sum of £300,000 for the purpose of thoroughly repairing and considerably altering Windsor Castle, and appointed a commission of eight noblemen to control the works. These were carried out according to the plans of Sir Jeffry Wyattville, who, among other improvements, replaced the inadequate and wretched stables by the present fine row of buildings, which are capable of containing upwards of 100 horses and 40 carriages. These are open to public inspection on application to the resident clerk of the stables, whose dwelling is near the upper lodge. The stables are divided into four courts—

namely, the Pony Court, containing the Queen's saddle-horses, ponies, and carriages; the Saddle Court, containing Prince Albert's horses; and the Coach-house Court, in which are the carriage horses, &c. The fourth Court contains the veterinary forge, &c. Of all the various parts of this stately pile the most interesting, perhaps, is *St. George's Chapel*. Henry I. is said to



ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL.

have erected the original Chapel, and Edward III. re-founded it. It is uncertain, however, whether any part of the original building now stands; several arches on the south side of the Dean's Cloisters are the most ancient. The style of this Chapel is more diversified and elegant than that of any of the other royal chapels, and it is considerably larger than they are. It is of

Gothic architecture, and the interior is very magnificent, especially the roof, which is exceedingly rich and chaste. The stained glass of the great west window is much admired; also the interior of the choir, in which are hung the banners of the Knights of the Garter, whose installation takes place here.

The following are the state apartments to which the public are admitted: The *Ball-Room*, which is filled with very fine paintings by Vandyke; and there are some bronzes from the antique. The *State Drawing-Room*, in which are several fine paintings by Zuccarelli and others. In the grand staircase beyond this room is a colossal statue of George IV. by Sir Francis Chantrey. In the *Waterloo-Chamber* is a splendid collection of the portraits of those warriors and statesmen who figured in the great political era of 1813, 14, and 15. Most of them were painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence. The *Presence-Chamber* contains a splendid vase which was presented to Queen Victoria by the Emperor of Russia. *St. George's Hall*, in which the state banquets sometimes take place. *The Guard-Room* contains a quantity of arms and military trophies, also several good busts. The *Audience-Chamber*, hung with tapestry, on which are represented the events recorded in the Book of Esther. There is a full-length portrait of Mary Queen of Scots here—artist unknown.

To the above apartments the public are admitted whether the Queen be residing at Windsor or not; but

to her suite of private apartments no admission can be had, of course, except during her Majesty's absence. Moreover, express permission must be obtained from the Lord Chamberlain, at his office in St. James's Palace, and reference to some person of known respectability is required before such permission is granted.

The enormous *Round Tower* is a point of great interest, owing to the splendid view obtained from its summit. It is ascended by a hundred steps, and from the top the visitor beholds the noble Park of Windsor and a great extent of country. The view of the Castle given in our Engraving is taken from the Thames. Leaving the Castle we now proceed to visit

VIRGINIA WATER.

On our way to this lovely spot we pass through part of *Windsor Park*. The Castle gardens occupy a picturesque slope towards the town of Windsor; and the Castle terrace, on the northern side, affords some very beautiful prospects of scenery; while, towards the west, the Thames is seen winding in the distance. Eton College, about a mile distant, is visible from various points of the terrace. Towards the south-west the view is bounded by the noble trees of the *Great Park*, which was known of old as Windsor Forest. At no great distance from the Castle we come upon the Queen's kitchen garden at Frogmore; and near to this is the Queen's dairy. Near the highest point of the walk we observe the stump of a

decayed and riven old oak, surrounded by a paling. It is thought to be the famous *Hearne's Oak* spoken of by Shakspeare. *Frogmore Lodge*, the residence of the Duchess of Kent, lies within this part of the Park. The Little Park is connected with the Great Park by means of the *Long Walk*, a magnificent avenue three miles in length, almost straight, and bordered by double rows of splendid old elms. At the farther end of this walk is an equestrian statue of George III., which, including the pedestal, is 50 feet high. The view from this statue is most exquisite, and much beautiful park scenery lies between it and Virginia Water. *Cumberland Lodge* is passed on the way, and a mile beyond it we arrive at *Virginia Water*. The plantations here are very fine and full of brown and pure white rabbits, which greatly enliven the scene. This lake is entirely artificial, and, besides being the largest of that description in the country, it is very judiciously and tastefully laid out. The overflow of water from it is cleverly conducted over a broken rocky bed, and forms a picturesque cascade. We cannot afford space to enter into a minute description of this beautiful spot. Suffice it to say that the grounds around the lake are most beautiful. The trees are varied and picturesquely grouped. Bold rocks are scattered about in various places, and a number of blocks of the Elgin Marbles are piled together in various and tasteful groups; the whole forming a scene worthy of the Royal Park at Windsor.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE

is situated on the north bank of the Thames, about 12 miles from London by land, and 24 by water. It may be reached by the South-Western Railway from Waterloo Station, and is open gratuitously to the public every day except Friday. Hours, from ten to four or six. A threepenny guide is sold in the guard-room.

The collection of paintings here is upwards of a thousand in number, and among them are the famous Cartoons of Raffaele. There are, however, a number of very inferior paintings, bearing the names of famous ancient masters, which are apt to mislead the ignorant in regard to the talent of those renowned men of old. The grounds around the Palace are very beautiful and well worth visiting.

The present building was begun by Cardinal Wolsey, who designed it to be his own residence; unfortunately for himself he made it so magnificent that Henry VIII. became jealous of its growing splendour, and the cardinal felt himself constrained to present it to his sovereign. He did not lose by this, however, for the king in return gave him the palace at Richmond, along with extensive manorial rights in the counties of Surrey and Middlesex. The Palace was finally completed, as it now exists, by William III. A large portion of the additions was made under the direction of Sir C. Wren. It is chiefly in the Tudor style of architecture.

Hampton Court consists of three spacious quadrangles, around which are numerous apartments and suites of rooms. Many of these are, by royal permission, occupied by private families, consisting chiefly of reduced members of the aristocracy.

After ascending the grand staircase, which is painted by Verrio, we enter the *Guard-Chamber*, on the walls of which are several paintings and a variety of military *materiel*. Beyond this is the *King's First Presence-Chamber*, containing some good portraits by Sir Godfrey Kneller. After this we pass through a great many rooms which contain innumerable pictures of all kinds and qualities, among which we may mention particularly the portraits in King William's Bed-Room, known as King Charles the Second's Beauties, painted principally by Sir Peter Lely. We next come to a magnificent room, constructed expressly for the celebrated *Cartoons of Raffaele*.

The subjects are as follow :—*The Death of Ananias—Elymas the Sorcerer Struck with Blindness—Healing the Lame at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple—Paul and Barnabas at Lystra—Paul Preaching at Athens—Christ's Charge to Peter*. These cartoons are the great attraction in Hampton Court. They are universally considered the finest paintings that were ever produced, and will not fail to afford the utmost gratification to all who are capable of appreciating fine art in its higher qualities. Most visitors will be surprised to find them-

selves familiar with their outlines, having frequently seen the engraved copies of them, which have been widely circulated throughout the world. In the next room there are nine pictures painted in distemper, by Andrea Mantegna. They were purchased by Charles I., and are very fine, although much decayed. The *Great Hall* and the *Withdrawing-Room* are magnificent apartments, ornamented with tapestry and stained glass. The rich carving and gilding of the roof of the former is very remarkable.

The Gardens of Hampton Court and the neighbouring grounds, called Bushy Park, with its avenue of horse-chestnuts and lime-trees, a mile in length, are very delightful places in which to ramble for an hour or two. On the east front of the Palace is a noble terrace, perhaps the finest in Britain. The country around is flat; but the grounds have been so tastefully laid out that the tameness incident to level land is greatly neutralized. We are admitted to the gardens through the shady walks of *the Wilderness*. In the middle of the central walk is a large basin full of very fine gold-fish, with a fountain playing in the centre. There is also a large sheet of water in the garden, filled with aquatic plants and fishes. At the south-west corner is a house which contains a celebrated vine, supposed to have been planted in 1768. It produces 1200 pounds of grapes annually, which supply her Majesty's table. One of the branches is above 100 feet in length. The *Lion Gates*, which are very handsome, are near the *Labyrinth*.

Hampton Court is surrounded with associations of royalty and greatness. Here Cardinal Wolsey held his court; "here Edward VI. was born; here were held the masques, mummeries, and tournaments of Philip, and Mary, and Elizabeth; here James I. held his court and famous meetings of controversialists; here Charles I. was immured as a state prisoner, and took leave of his children; here was celebrated the marriage of Cromwell's daughter and Lord Falconberg; here Charles II. had occasionally his impure residence; here lived William and Mary after the revolution of 1688; and here, till the reign of George II., royal courts were sometimes held."

RICHMOND BRIDGE AND TOWN.

The views in this neighbourhood are exceedingly beautiful; rich in elegant villas and woodland scenery, and a stranger may spend a most agreeable afternoon in rambling about the vicinity of Richmond and Twickenham. Less than half an hour will suffice to convey him by the South-Western Railway, Waterloo Station. The view from Richmond Bridge is particularly fine, and the railway bridge thrown across the river near the town is a very picturesque object in the scene. On the Middlesex side there is a row of new villas, which are distinguished by the peculiarity of being separated from each other by conservatories. The view of Richmond Hill, with its scattered villas and masses of wood, is very

good from this point. Richmond was formerly a royal residence, and here Queen Elizabeth died in 1604. From the top of *Richmond Hill* there is a splendid view of richly-cultivated fields, and parks, and villas, among which flows the broad Thames. The view also embraces Petersham, Twickenham, Hampton Court, Windsor, &c. The *Park* is of great size—2250 acres—and about eight miles in circumference. The principal entrance is opposite the Star and Garter Hotel. Follow the path to the right, which passes *Pembroke Lodge*, the residence of Lord John Russell, which commands a most exquisite prospect, and some of the trees in its neighbourhood, a little beyond it, are very large and old; especially the thorns, which are partly covered with ivy. In the direction of Wimbledon there is a young plantation of oaks; just beyond is the *White Lodge*, in the neighbourhood of which there are some fine specimens of trees and park scenery.

The late King of the French and his family lived in the Star and Garter Hotel several times during their residence in this country. At Twickenham is the celebrated villa of Pope, now converted into a modern Chinese-looking edifice; also Strawberry Hill, the residence of Horace Walpole.

Below Richmond, on the right, is *Kew Park*, once the farm of George III.; on the left is *Sion House*, the mansion of the Duke of Northumberland.

KEW BOTANICAL GARDENS.

These beautiful and interesting grounds are below Richmond. They may be reached in a short time by taking one of the omnibuses that start from Piccadilly every quarter of an hour. A hand-book may be purchased at the Gardens for 6d., which gives minute details of all that is to be seen. The handsome gates at Kew Green, by which we enter, were designed by Decimus Burton. The Gardens, which are open every day, were laid out under the direction of the celebrated botanist Sir W. J. Hooker.

Kew Gardens originally came into possession of the royal family through the Prince of Wales, father of George III., in whose reign they were greatly improved by Sir Joseph Banks, and became celebrated for the fine collection of exotics. In 1840 a number of gentlemen, among whom was Sir W. J. Hooker, were appointed to inquire into the state of the Gardens, and liberal parliamentary grants were made in order to their improvement. A large piece of pleasure-ground was added to them, and the whole extended to 75 acres. Additional plant-houses were built, and a museum founded. The Gardens were then thrown open gratis to the public.

The chief object of interest in the Gardens is the *Palm-house*, a view of which is given in our Engraving. The length of this splendid building is 362 feet; it is 100 feet wide in the centre, and 69 feet high. A gallery runs

round the centre part of the house. The building is composed almost entirely of iron and glass, and was designed by Mr. Decimus Burton. It contains a surface of thick glass almost equal to an acre in extent, and the framework is of wrought iron bars and ribs. In order to heat the house for the tropical plants with which it is filled, there are twelve boilers placed in vaults beneath. From these, upwards of four miles of iron pipe is conducted under the floor, which sends up heated air through perforated iron plates. A tunnel, 550 feet in length, forms the passage through which fuel is carried to these boilers; and by means of a water-tank and the steam-engines connected with the Palm-house, water can be forced into all parts of the garden.

The plants which this house contains are all tropical; and the collection is rich, complete, and diversified, so that the visitor on entering feels as if he were suddenly transported to the romantic regions of the sunny south. The view obtained from the gallery is most gorgeous. Here we look down upon the novel and luxuriant productions of India, Africa, and the fertile coral islands of the Pacific. Strange forms of foliage, curious stems, gigantic leaves, and magnificent fruits, to which untravelled men of the north are utterly unaccustomed, meet the eye on every side, and fill us with new sensations. Here are stately palms with straight stems and tufted heads; the banana, with its broad, enormous leaves; the sugar-cane, the coffee-tree, the chocolate-tree, the

celebrated bread-fruit-tree, and the wonderful banyan-tree, whose single stem produces a grove in the course of time. Here also are the Egyptian papyrus, from which paper was first made; curious specimens of the sensitive plant, and many of the plants mentioned in Scripture: to all of which labels are attached, bearing the common as well as the scientific names, so that the uninitiated may understand what they behold. We can merely touch upon the hundreds of wonderful plants and trees which this curious Palm-house contains. A minute examination of it will amply repay the visitor.

Among other objects of interest in these Gardens, we may mention the *Temple of Æolus*, a very pretty structure placed picturesquely among trees. There is also the *Temple of Minden*, at the south corner of the grounds. To the botanist and the florist the *British Garden* will prove very interesting, containing, as it does, most of the indigenous species of plants, arranged methodically. The several houses in the Gardens contain many curious and most exquisite plants; but house No. 6 claims our chief regard, as it contains that wonderful giant of the vegetable kingdom, the *Victoria Regia lily*. This plant was first raised from the seed in Kew Gardens; but it flowered first at Chatsworth. It was discovered in 1837 by Sir R. H. Schomburgk, during his travels in British Guiana. At first people were somewhat sceptical about the existence of a lily whose leaves measured upwards of 6 feet across, and whose flowers

were more than 16 inches in diameter. The first attempts, too, to raise plants from the seed were unsuccessful ; but in 1849 Dr. Rodie of Demerara sent over a packet of seeds, which germinated, and produced excellent plants. These have convinced the public that travellers do not always exaggerate. The leaves are nearly circular, and turned up at the edges; and the flowers are of a rich white, streaked with pink in the centre, and very fragrant. Greenhouse No. 7 is also interesting, from the great variety of New Zealand plants contained in it. No. 10 contains the products of Australia. No. 19, the Cactus-house, is well worth seeing. Among other wonderful plants here is the *Visnaga*, which weighs upwards of 700 pounds, and was drawn by oxen from the interior of Mexico to the coast. The *Museum* is also first-rate, and cannot fail to afford useful instruction and amusement to inquiring minds.

In the *pleasure-grounds* attached to the Botanical Gardens there is a group of very large elms, one of which is said to have been planted by Queen Elizabeth. It was blown down, however, some years ago, and the stump alone remains.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

Chelsea is a Royal Hospital for old and disabled soldiers. It stands on the north bank of the Thames, opposite Battersea, and is a handsome, effective building. It consists of a centre and two wings of brick, with stone

dressings. Sir Christopher Wren was its architect, as well as the framer of its admirable laws, regulations, and internal economy. The first stone was laid by Charles II. in person, in March 1681; and there is a portrait of that monarch on horseback in the hall, painted by Verrio and Henry Cooke; also a bronze statue of him by Gibbons, in the centre of the great quadrangle.

The number of in-pensioners is 430, each of whom costs in maintenance £36 a-year. The out-pensioners are much more numerous, amounting to upwards of 75,000. These receive pensions varying from 3d. to 3s. 6d. a-day. The Hospital is managed by a Governor appointed by the Crown, and by Commissioners.

Here the veteran warriors of Britain smoke their pipes in peace, and spend the evening of their rugged lives in comfort, recounting to each other, doubtless, the stirring incidents of many a brilliant charge or splendid victory.

There is a tradition that Nell Gwynne assisted in the foundation of Chelsea Hospital. Whether this be so or not is uncertain; but her head decorates the ancient sign-board of a neighbouring public-house.

In the Hall are interesting trophies of British prowess, consisting of 46 colours, and in the Chapel 55; all captured in different parts of the world. Among them are 34 French and 13 French eagles, 13 American, 4 Dutch, and many others. In the Chapel several persons of eminence are interred; and there is a very fine statue of Sir Hans Sloane, by Rysbach, in the gardens. The

Botanic Gardens contain a rich collection of medical plants and of rare exotics, intended to form a repository of reference to the medical student, but which also constitute a source of attraction to the florist and the lover of nature.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL

may be reached by steam-boat from London Bridge, or by railway from the same place. Greenwich Hospital was founded by William III., as a retreat for old and disabled sailors of the Royal Navy. It is erected on the site of the house in which Henry VIII. and his two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, were born. The west wing was erected by Charles II., from designs by Webb; and the Great Hall, the colonnades, and cupolas, were designed by Wren; but the building was not completed as it now stands till 1705, in January of which year it was opened. The *Royal Naval School*, in the centre of the great square, was built by Inigo Jones for Queen Henrietta Maria. The Chapel was built from the designs of Athenian Stuart. The statue of George II., in the quadrangle, is by Rysbach, and was sculptured out of a block of marble taken from the French by Sir George Rooke.

The sources whence the income of Greenwich Hospital is drawn are numerous and curious. Besides a grant of £20,000 per annum from Parliament, it is supported by forfeited and unclaimed shares of prize-money. a sum

out of the coal-tax, the estates forfeited by the Earl of Derwentwater in 1715, a bequest from Robert Osbaldeston of £20,000, and by the ill-gotten gains of the pirate Kidd, amounting to upwards of £6400. The total income of the Hospital is upwards of £130,000 a-year.

In this Hospital are maintained, lodged, and clothed, upwards of 3000 pensioners; and there are upwards of 32,000 out-pensioners. Besides all necessaries, the in-pensioners receive from 1s. to 2s. 6d. per week. The out-pensioners are paid from £4, 11s. 3d. to £27, 7s. 6a. a-year.



GREENWICH HALL.

One of the chief objects of interest in the building is the *Hall*, which measures 106 feet long by 56 wide and 50 high, and was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. It

is beautifully ornamented on the ceiling and walls with paintings by Sir James Thornhill, and contains a large number of very fine portraits and pictures by the best modern artists. In the Upper Hall are shown the coat worn by Nelson at the battle of the Nile, and the coat and vest in which he was killed at Trafalgar. There is a hole in the left shoulder of the coat, through which passed the fatal ball that drank the life-blood of England's greatest naval hero. The ball, with a portion of the epaulette adhering to it, is now in the possession of Queen Victoria.

In reference to this Sir Harris Nicolas writes:—"The coat is the undress uniform of a vice-admiral, lined with white silk, with lace on the cuffs and epaulettes. Four stars, of the orders of the Bath, St. Ferdinand and Merit, the Crescent, and St. Joachim, are *sewn* on the left breast, as Nelson habitually wore them; which disproves the story that he purposely adorned himself with his decorations on going into battle! The course of the fatal ball is shown by a hole over the left shoulder, and part of the epaulette is torn away; which agrees with Dr. Sir William Beattie's account of Lord Nelson's death, and with the fact that pieces of the bullion and pad of the epaulette adhered to the ball, which is now in her Majesty's possession. The coat and waistcoat are stained in several places with the hero's blood."

The Chapel dates from 1779, and was built by Athenian Stuart. It contains some excellent sculpture, and

an altar-piece by West, representing the shipwreck of St. Paul.

Admission to the Painted Hall and Chapel is free to the public on Mondays and Fridays. Threepence is charged on other days, except to soldiers and sailors, who are admitted free at all times.

GREENWICH NAVAL SCHOOL

stands to the southward of the Hospital. It is intended for the maintenance and education of the orphan sons and daughters of naval men. There are about 1000 children here.

Few excursions in the neighbourhood of London are so delightful as a trip down the Thames, and an afternoon at Greenwich Hospital.

GREENWICH PARK AND OBSERVATORY.

Greenwich Park is a very fine one, containing upwards of 170 acres of varied and undulating ground, studded here and there with groves and clusters of magnificent trees, among which are some superb Spanish chestnuts. Those on the south side of the Park are the largest. There are also some very fine specimens of the Scotch fir, the dark foliage of which contrasts finely with the trees of a lighter green. The upper part of one of the finest avenues in the Park is lined with these firs; the lower part, near the Hospital, being shaded with elms. There are several very old and picturesque thorns

at the upper end of the Park. There are numerous avenues of various forms and sizes, and several eminences from which delightful views of the Thames and the giant city may be obtained. We may mention more particularly *One-Tree-Hill* as a very fine out-look. Le Notre is said to have laid out this Park, which is one of the finest near London.

The Observatory was designed by Wren, and was founded by Charles II. in 1675. From this building is indicated the celebrated "Greenwich Time," by means of a ball which drops exactly at 1 p.m. every day. An electric wire connects this ball with the one belonging to the Electric Telegraph Company at Charing-Cross. The maintenance of this Observatory costs £4000 a-year, including £800, the salary of the Astronomer Royal. From the eminence on which it stands may be had a splendid view of London.

Greenwich Observatory was originally instituted for the purpose of solving the difficult problem,—the discovery of the longitude of a ship at sea. Before this, only rough approximations were made to the exact positions of a large number of the stars, as set forth by Tycho Brahe's Catalogue; so that it was deemed necessary to found a National Observatory, "to rectify," as the warrant expressed it, "the tables of the motions of the heavens and the places of the fixed stars, so as to find out the so much desired longitude at sea, for perfecting the art of navigation." It was by the advice of Sir Christo-

pher Wren that the Observatory was placed on its present site, and it was commenced and completed within a year.

John Flamsteed, a self-taught genius, was the first Astronomer Royal; and a better, certainly, could not have been found, for he raised the Observatory to the first rank amongst institutions of the kind,—a rank which it has ever since maintained. For half a century this able man laboured with rude and imperfect instruments, not one of which had been furnished to him by Government; and although his observations and discoveries were of the most important nature, and such as will render his name honourable in future ages, he only received an uncertain salary of £100 a-year. Towards the close of his life, Flamsteed's circumstances were somewhat improved, in a financial point of view, by the death of his father, and he added a mural arc to the Observatory at his own expense. This was, in effect, the commencement of a new era in astronomical observation.

The present buildings were chiefly erected between the years 1813 and 1844; and the scientific instruments are now of the very best quality.

WOOLWICH.

This is the great repository and manufactory of the warlike stores, implements, and machinery, both military and maritime, of Great Britain, and is a most wonderful and interesting sight, which no visitor should omit going to see. It is about eight miles east of London.

There are two modes of reaching Woolwich,—namely, by the North Kent Railway from London Bridge, or by the Blackwall Railway to Blackwall Pier, and thence by steam-boat. It contains an Arsenal, Barracks, a splendid Dockyard, a Military Academy, and depôts for all the munitions of war.



WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

Admission to the Dockyard is free; to the Arsenal and Military Repository, by order from the Master-General of the Ordnance, or the personal escort of any of the officers. Open from 9 till half-past 11, and from 1 to 4. The Dockyard is open from 10 to 4. Foreigners desirous of seeing Woolwich, or any of the Royal Dockyards, must obtain permission from their ambassador residing in England.

One of the most interesting sights in the Arsenal is the *Cannon Foundry*, in which are the colossal works for casting and boring brass guns. Until a very recent date, these operations were conducted in a most laborious and primitive way; but the works and machinery are now of the most perfect and elaborate kind, and it is most interesting to observe the ease and rapidity with which they cast, bore, drill, trunnion, and mount, those massive pieces of artillery which have contributed so materially to raise Britain to her present high position among the nations of the earth. The origin of this Foundry at Woolwich is somewhat curious.

Long ago, it was situated in Upper Moorfields, London. The Duke of Richmond, at that time Master-General of the Ordnance, ordered a number of the guns taken from the French by Marlborough to be recast, and went with some of his friends, and a large concourse of spectators, to witness the operation. Among the rest there chanced to be a foreigner named Schalch, who observed that there was moisture in the moulds, and warned the Duke that, if the casting proceeded, a serious explosion would result. No attention was paid to the remonstrance, and, as had been predicted, the instant the liquid metal was poured into the mould, it exploded with great violence, and injured some of the bystanders severely. In consequence of the warning thus given, and the proof of his engineering knowledge thus exhibited, Schalch was commissioned to erect a new

Foundry on any spot he chose to select within twelve miles of London, and was offered the superintendence of the works. He accepted the commission, and fixed upon Woolwich as the site of the new erection.

Near to the Military Repository is a small fort with embrasures and guns. Here the men of the Royal Artillery are taught the art of defending fortifications, and various other duties connected with their arm of the service, among which not the least interesting is the operation of throwing pontoons, or floating bridges, across a small lake to an island in the centre.

In the *Laboratory* are prepared bombs, rockets, carcasses, and grenades, of all shapes and sizes; also the fireworks and cartridges for the use of both arms of the service.

In the *Dockyard*, which was established in 1512, and is the oldest in the kingdom, the object of chief interest is the Blacksmiths' Shop; and much pleasure, as well as instruction, may be derived from an inspection of the curious and ponderous machinery and mechanism connected with ship-building on the largest scale. The hammers in the Blacksmiths' Shop, driven by steam, and used for forging anchors of the largest size, will surprise those unaccustomed to machinery. The furnaces, also, are remarkably large. Not far from this is the *Testing House*, in which are several beautiful and ingenious pieces of mechanism for testing the strength of anchors and cables.

There is a field near the river in which are innumerable pieces of ordnance ready for immediate use.

The *Rotunda* was erected by George IV. for the purpose of a banquet-hall, in which to entertain the allied sovereigns of Europe during their visit to this country at the peace of 1814. It was afterwards handed over to Woolwich, and now contains an immense variety of interesting and most curious naval and military models. The view from the building is very fine.

In the *Royal Military Academy* are barracks for the accommodation of nearly 200 cadets, and the various class-rooms required for their training, both mental and physical. Strict and severe examinations must now be passed ere admission into this Academy can be obtained. The Marine Barracks contain about 500 men, who mount guard over the convicts at work in the Dockyard. There is a fine view from this point, of the windings of the Thames and the surrounding country.

A walk along the Plumstead Road will be found agreeable and interesting. In the marshes on the left is the ground where the artillerymen are exercised in ball and shell practice at the target. Farther on are the fine abbey lands and ruins of Erith. Nightingale Vale is a pleasant locality, and a walk to the top of Shooter's Hill will afford much gratification to visitors.

GRAVESEND,

a watering-place, and the entrance to the port of London,

is 30 miles from London Bridge, whence steamers start, as well as from Blackwall, at frequent intervals during the day, in the summer season, conveying passengers for 1s. each; and the time usually occupied on the passage is about two hours. The boats are most excellent, fast-sailers, and provided with every accommodation and comfort that can be found in the best hotels. They, as well as the legion of other boats on the river, belong to various companies, styling themselves the Citizens' Company, the Watermen's Company, the Westminster Company, the Richmond Company, the Woolwich and Greenwich Company, and several others. To those who wish to economize time, we would recommend either of the lines of railway, starting respectively from the London Bridge and Fenchurch Street Stations,—the former has the advantage of scenery, the latter of cheapness.

The town has many very good public buildings. It was plundered and burnt by the French and Spaniards in the reign of Richard II., and a great part of it was again destroyed by fire in 1727. A large quantity of hemp is spun here, for ropes and nets, and the gardens of the neighbourhood are celebrated. It is said that the best asparagus in the kingdom is grown at Gravesend.

TRIP FROM LONDON BRIDGE TO GRAVESEND,
by steamboat, is one of the most agreeable ways in which a stranger can spend a day. During the course of the excursion he will see and learn more of London and

its inhabitants than if he were to wander about the streets of the city for a week. Everything, and every person that meets his eye, seems imbued with a spirit of bustle, life, energy, activity; and, as he shoots along the tortuous course of the Thames, and steers, as if by miraculous power, out and in among the ships, barges, boats, and rushing steamers, he enjoys an opportunity of seeing some of the finest buildings and public works in the world. Just below London Bridge is

THE POOL,

where three rows of colliers anchored in the river divide it into two channels. These colliers are so numerous, and their arrival and departure so frequent, that it has been found necessary to institute a most perfect and strict system of arrangement in the mode of their taking up a position and discharging cargo, in order to prevent absolute confusion, and interruption to the ordinary traffic on the river. Notwithstanding all the order and regularity observed, however, great inconvenience is experienced, and it is contemplated to cut a dock opposite Greenwich for their special accommodation. One of the chief sources of the income of the city of London is a tax of 1s. 1d. per ton levied on coals.

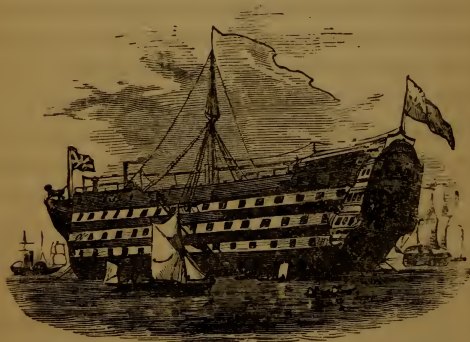
The first building of note that we pass is the *Tower of London*,* on the left. Then follow in succession *St.*

* For a description of the Tower, and of all other buildings and places in London not included in the "*Environs*," see "*London and its Sights*," published by T. Nelson and Sons, London and Edinburgh.

Katherine's Docks,—distinguishable by the forest of masts, which seem to rise out of the roofs of the houses,—and the *London Docks*. Here we pass over the *Thames Tunnel*, in which fairs are held, and balls are frequently given ! On the left are the *Grand Surrey* and *Greenland and Commercial Docks*. Farther down are the *West India Docks* on the left ; *Deptford* on the right ; and the hulk of

THE DREADNOUGHT.

This enormous representative of the old man-of-war is an hospital-ship for sick seamen of all nations. No re-



THE DREADNOUGHT.

commendation, certificate, or letter of introduction, is necessary in order to insure reception here. Disease is

the passport, and the sick mariner has only to present himself to be taken in and carefully nursed. The hospital is supported by voluntary contributions.

Deptford is about three miles from London Bridge. It is a great naval store and victualling establishment of the Royal Navy. Immense quantities of biscuits are baked here by very beautiful and ingenious machinery, which was made by the Messrs. Rennie. Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, worked as a shipwright in this dockyard!

Then we pass *Greenwich Hospital* on the right; *Blackwall* on the left; *East India Docks* and *Woolwich Arsenal*. Below this, all is flat marshy ground, until we reach *Gravesend*; but the thousands of vessels sailing to and fro render the scene one of great animation.

There is steam navigation between the port of London and most parts of the world, the vessels being owned by a number of different companies; and, as these have all to pass this entrance to the port, as well as the thousands of sailing vessels that are constantly departing and arriving, Gravesend is a place of considerable bustle and lively activity. The air is filled with the sound of sailors' voices, as they sing at the capstans, or spread their canvass to the breeze and speed on their outward voyage; and frequently the rattle of a chain-cable falls upon the ear, mingling with the other sounds, as a home,

ward-bound ship sweeps into port and drops her anchor.

All who are fond of the sights and sounds of maritime life will, we feel assured, be charmed with a trip to Gravesend.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

We think it is no exaggeration to say that the Crystal Palace of Sydenham is the largest and most wonderful structure in the world, out-rivalling even those gorgeous conceptions described in the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments."

It is impossible to attempt anything like a minute account of this extraordinary monument of human enterprise and industry in the present work; we will, therefore, merely give a brief account of its history, and detail a few facts in regard to it, which will serve to interest the visitor and assist him in his excursion to the Palace. For a complete and comprehensive account of the building, we must refer him to the guide-books, which may be had of all booksellers.

The Crystal Palace may be reached either by one of the numerous omnibuses which run between it and London, or by the Brighton Railway from London Bridge Station. Trains run almost every half hour to and from Sydenham during the day, from about 8 a.m. till past 8 p.m. The following are the fares there and back, *including* admission to the Palace and gardens:—

	1st Class.	2d Class.	3d Class.
Monday,	} 2s. 6d.	} 2s. 0d.	} 1s. 6d.
Tuesday,			
Wednesday,			
Thursday,			
Friday,			
Saturday,	7s. 0d.	6s. 6d.	6s. 0d.

Children under twelve half price.

No change is given at the railway termini, so that passengers must be careful to provide themselves with silver. The above fares are liable to variation. Every accommodation is provided at the Company's stables for horses and carriages. There are excellent *Refreshment Rooms*, first and second class, within the building,—charges moderate. Those who travel by the road may turn aside to visit the *Dulwich Gallery* before proceeding to Sydenham.

The History of the Sydenham Palace is as follows:—

When the Great Exhibition of 1851 was brought to a close, there was a general feeling that the splendid crystal edifice should not be taken to pieces and consigned to oblivion. Much was said about applying it to some other purpose, and many plans in regard to it were proposed and rejected. At length in 1852 nine English gentlemen purchased the building, resolving to enlarge and re-erect it as a permanent exhibition in some suitable locality near the metropolis. The chief originators of this scheme were Messrs. Leech and Farquhar. Mr. Francis Fuller, a member of the Great Exhibition

Executive Committee, afterwards became managing director. A company was formed, with a capital of £500,000, in shares of £5; and so confident were the public of the success of the undertaking, that the shares were very quickly taken up, and the operation of removing the Palace commenced. The site fixed upon was a piece of elevated ground in the neighbourhood of Sydenham, within fifteen minutes drive from London by railway. The new structure was begun, and the first column raised, on the 5th of August 1852; and, immediately after, several gentlemen were despatched to the principal cities on the Continent, for the purpose of bringing to England casts of the finest pieces of sculpture in existence, and other specimens of the fine arts. The splendid Park, Winter Garden, and Conservatories, were committed to the management of Sir Joseph Paxton, who invented the architectural part of the Palace of 1851. The arrangements of the various other departments were assigned to men of eminence and skill, in whose hands the structure grew, until it quickly attained its present splendour, and the New Crystal Palace was at length opened to the public on the 10th of June 1854. Some idea of the magnitude and extent of the operations carried on in the fitting up of this enormous house of glass, may be gathered from the fact that at one time there were no fewer than 6400 men employed in carrying out the designs of the directors.

The Construction of the Crystal Palace was carried

on under the personal superintendence of Mr. Henderson, of the firm of Messrs. Fox and Henderson, the



INTERIOR OF CRYSTAL PALACE.

builders of the original Palace. The edifice is completely transparent, being composed entirely, roof and walls,

of clear glass, supported by an iron frame-work ; and it is said that these materials are more durable than either marble or granite, and, if properly cared for, will utterly defy the ravages of time. The extreme length of the Palace, including the wings, is 2756 feet ; which, with the colonnade leading from the railway station to the wings, gives a total length of 3476 feet, or nearly three-quarters of a mile. The width of the great central transept is 120 feet ; and its height, from the garden front to the top of the louvre, is 208 feet, or 6 feet higher than the Monument. It consists of a basement floor, above which rise a magnificent central nave, two side aisles, two main galleries, three transepts, and two wings. In order to avoid sameness and monotony in such an immense surface of glass, pairs of columns and girders are advanced 8 feet into the nave at every 72 feet. An arched roof covers the nave, and the centre transept towers into the air in fairy-like lightness and brilliancy. There are also recesses of 24 feet deep in the garden fronts of all the transepts, which throw fine shadows, and relieve the continuous surface of the plain glass walls ; and the whole building is otherwise agreeably broken into parts by the low square towers at the junction of the nave and transepts, the open galleries towards the garden front, and the long wings on either side. The building is heated to the genial temperature of Madeira, by an elaborate system of hot-water pipes, and the supply of water is drawn

from an artesian well. There are iron galleries within the walls, from which may be had some most magnificent views of the wondrous pile and its contents.

The Contents of the Palace can only be hinted at. They consist of specimens of the architecture and sculpture of all ages and countries;—tombs, temples, columns, busts, statues, capitals, and hieroglyphics, from Greece, Rome, Egypt, and other countries; portions and courts of the magnificent Alhambra; gigantic relics and remains from the ruined palaces of Babylon, Susa, and Nineveh; specimens of the architecture of the Christian temples of Italy, the castles and churches of Germany, the chateaux of Belgium and France, and the cathedrals and mansions of England, from the earliest ages to the present time: all of which are arranged in different *courts* in the most systematic order. Besides these, there are Industrial Courts, in which may be seen commercial products of different kinds and countries; and courts in which are exhibited specimens of natural history; and small lakes containing aquatic plants, among which is the famous gigantic *Victoria Regia*; and a host of other interesting objects, for minute details of which we refer our reader to the guide-books. In the lower storey of the building machinery in motion is exhibited.

The Garden and Park (from which is taken our View of the great transept) contain a series of beautiful ponds and magnificent fountains, with extraordinary and some-

what startling models of the gigantic and hideous animals that lived before the flood.

The following facts are curious and interesting: The total length of the iron columns which uphold the Palace, if laid in a straight line, would extend to 16 miles; and the weight of all the iron used amounts to about 9640 tons. The superficial quantity of glass used is equal to about 25 acres; and if the panes were laid end to end, they would extend to a distance of 242 miles. The pipes which convey water to the fountains and back to the reservoirs, vary in size from one inch to three feet in diameter; their weight is about 4000 tons, and their united length about 10 miles. The erection of this Palace cost £1,450,000, being one million above the original estimate; and the annual expense has been £60,000.

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Besides the objects of particular interest in the vicinity of London which we have described in the foregoing pages, there are still a few which merit a brief notice.

ETON COLLEGE,

one mile from Windsor, on the opposite bank of the Thames. It may be reached by the South-Western or Great Western Railway, the distance being 20 miles from London. Eton was founded by Henry VI. in 1440, and is a fine building, in the Tudor style of architecture. The Chapel is a fine structure, and the Library one of the best in England. The average attend-

ance of pupils is above three hundred, all of whom board within the bounds of the College, or at the houses of the masters. There is an eminence on the southern side of the Bath Road called Salt Hill. It derives its name from the following curious custom:—

Once in every three years, on Whit Tuesday, the pupils of Eton proceed in procession to Salt Hill, where there is always a large and fashionable assemblage, frequently including members of the royal family. From these the pupils collect a large sum of money in exchange for a little salt; which sum often amounts to several hundred pounds, and is bestowed upon the senior scholar, or captain of the school, to assist in supporting him at one of the universities. This singular custom is styled the Eton Montem.

CHISWICK

is a village about five miles distant from Hyde Park Corner, on the Western Road. Here are the beautiful gardens of the Duke of Devonshire. In the mansion belonging to the Duke died Charles James Fox, the eminent statesman, in 1806; and George Canning in 1827; and in the parish churchyard lie the remains of Hogarth the painter, and the Countess of Falconberg, the daughter of Oliver Cromwell. The Horticultural Gardens here are also remarkably fine, and the visitors cannot fail to derive much pleasure from a visit to them, as well as to those of the Duke.

CLAREMONT PALACE

is near the village of Esher, in the county of Surrey, and 17 miles from London. This was formerly the residence of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, only daughter of George IV. ; and, more recently, the abode of the dethroned King of France, Louis Philippe, and his family. This Palace was built eighty years ago by Lord Clive, who expended in its erection and on its decoration the enormous sum of £100,000. It was purchased for Prince Leopold, by Parliament, in 1816, for the sum of £65,000.

ST. ALBAN'S

is a very ancient town, about 21 miles from London; start from King's Cross Station, and proceed by the Great Northern Railway. This was one of the chief towns of the ancient Britons, before the Roman conquest. The Abbey Church was built principally in the reign of William Rufus, and a large portion of the original edifice is composed of Roman tile. The greater part of the town was destroyed by Queen Boadicea, but was afterwards rebuilt. There are some fine pieces of sculpture to be seen in the Abbey, and in the Church of St. Michael there is a fine monument of Lord Bacon, by Rysbach.

DULWICH COLLEGE AND GALLERY OF
PICTURES

is situated about five miles from London. The College

was founded by an actor named Alleyn, and the pictures were bequeathed to it, for the use of the public, by a royal academician, named Sir Francis Bourgeois, on condition that a mausoleum, to contain his own remains and those of two friends, should be erected in the Gallery. A separate building connected with the Gallery has been erected for this purpose. The collection comprises upwards of 350 pictures. There are some splendid paintings by Murillo here, and many by all the best ancient as well as modern masters. A catalogue is to be had at the door for 6d. Open every day except Sunday and Friday. Children under 14 not admitted. The Dulwich Gallery may be visited on the same day with the Crystal Palace, if the visitor makes good use of his time.

Let it be carefully remembered that there is no admission to this Gallery except by tickets, which are *not* obtainable at Dulwich, but must be procured from Messrs. *Graves & Co.*, 6 Pall-Mall; *P. & D. Colnaghi*, Pall-Mall East; *Leggall & Co.*, Cornhill; Mr. Moon, 20 Threadneedle Street; and Mr. Lloyd, 23 Harley Street.

EPSOM DOWNS

is the most celebrated race-course in England. It is in Surrey, distant from London about 15 miles.

ASCOT HEATH

is also a famous race-course, about 24 miles from London and 5 from Windsor.

HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE

are delightful suburbs, and well worthy of being visited in consequence of the splendid views of London to be had from them. Between Hampstead and Highgate Hills is situated *Kenwood*, the seat of the Earl of Mansfield, a beautifully wooded and picturesque spot. Admission to this, however, is not generally granted.

THE CEMETERIES

of London are as follows:—*Highgate*; *Kensal Green*, on the Harrow Road, about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the Paddington Station of the Great Western Railway; *Abney Park*, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Post-Office; *Brompton*, 2 miles from Hyde Park Corner; *Victoria* and *Tower Hamlets* Cemeteries, both in the east of London; *Bunhill Fields*; *Nunhead* and *Norwood* Cemeteries, on the Surrey side of the Thames. Of these Cemeteries only Highgate, Kensal Green, and Norwood, are worth visiting. All are open to the public from about 9 or 10 o'clock, to sunset, every day.

KENSAL GREEN CEMETERY

is particularly interesting. It is about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the Paddington Station of the Great Western Railway. The remains of many eminent persons lie buried here. Among others,—the Duke of Sussex and the Princess Sophia, son and daughter of George III.; the former left directions in his will that he should be buried in

Kensal Green in preference to the royal tomb at Windsor; there is a massive tomb of granite over his grave;—Allan Cunningham, author of the “Lives of British Painters and Sculptors,” who died in 1842;—Anne and Sophia, daughters of Sir Walter Scott; and John Hugh Lockhart, the grandson of Scott; and the “Hugh Littlejohn” to whom the “Tales of a Grandfather” were dedicated;—Rev. Sydney Smith; Tom Hood the poet; John Murray the publisher and friend of Lord Byron, —besides many others of lesser note. Some of the most prominent and conspicuous of the tombs are erected to the memory of men who, although *celebrated*, cannot be classed among the *eminent*,—namely, Morrison of pill notoriety; Ducrow, the equestrian; St. John Long, the quack doctor; and George Robins, the auctioneer.

BUNHILL FIELDS BURIAL-GROUND,

near Finsbury Square, contains the “pit” opened for those who died of the Great Plague in 1665. After the Plague had passed away, this burial-ground was leased by the Dissenters, who objected to the burial-service in the Book of Common Prayer. Many great and celebrated men lie here. This burial-ground is in the heart of London. We merely note it here as being one of the celebrated places of interment in and around the metropolis.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Before concluding this little work, it may not be out

of place to give the reader a few hints of a useful kind in reference to the great city of London.

When desirous of inquiring your way in the streets, ask information from policemen, or enter a shop and make inquiry. A sure remedy for finding yourself if you get lost, is to call a cab and tell the driver where to go. There are 1200 omnibuses in London, the great centres of which are Charing Cross and the Bank. Should your lodging or hotel be within easy walking distance of either of these places, you can have no difficulty in reaching home from any quarter of the city.

Cab fares by distance are sixpence a mile; by time two shillings an hour. For full and detailed information as to cab charges, see the *Red-Book of Fares*, price one shilling. *Omnibus* charges are from threepence to fourpence for all ordinary distances; and to those who know their various routes they are a cheap and pleasant mode of conveyance.

If you wish to drive about the city and see it well, *be sure* to use a "*Hansom*" cab, the driver of which sits *behind*, and so does not interrupt the view.

Dinner is sometimes wanted in a hurry when one is far from home. In order to meet this want there are innumerable first rate eating-houses in London, where dinner after a sort may be had from one shilling upwards, at almost any hour of the day.



